

**FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting  
Data Collection Form**FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	371561
<015>	Study Area Name	HERSHEY COOP TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Judy Christiansen
<035>	Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	4018181322 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	jchristiansen@consortiaconsulting.com
	Form Type	54.313 and 54.422

<010>	Study Area Code	371561
<015>	Study Area Name	HERSHEY COOP TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Judy Christiansen
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4018181322 ext.
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<210> For the prior calendar year, were there any reportable voice service outages? No

Page 2

**(300) Unfulfilled Service Request  
Data Collection Form**FCC Form 481  
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&lt;300&gt; Unfulfilled service request (voice)

0

&lt;310&gt; Detail on attempts (voice)

Name of Attached Document

&lt;320&gt; Unfulfilled service request (broadband)

0

&lt;330&gt; Detail on attempts (broadband)

Name of Attached Document

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jchristiansen@consortiaconsulting.com
<400>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report voice complaints (zero or greater) for voice telephony service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize. Offered only fixed voice	
<410>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed voice	0 . 0
<420>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile voice	
<430>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report end-user customer complaints (zero or greater) for broadband service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize. Offered only fixed broadband	
<440>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed broadband	0 . 0
<450>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile broadband	



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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jchristiansen@consortiaconsulting.com
<500>	Certify compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules	Yes
371561neServiceQuality510.pdf		
<510>	Descriptive document for Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	
<515>	Certify compliance with applicable minimum service standards	

<b>(600) Functionality in Emergency Situations</b>		FCC Form 481
<b>Data Collection Form</b>		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
		July 2013

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jchristiansen@consortiaconsulting.com
<600>	Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610>	Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	371561neEmergencyCertification610.pdf



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[illegible]

**(800) Operating Companies  
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

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<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jchristiansen@consortiaconsulting.com
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company
<811>	Holding Company	Not Applicable
<812>	Operating Company	NA

[illegible]

**(900) Tribal Lands Reporting  
Data Collection Form**

 FCC Form 481  
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
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&lt;900&gt; Does the filing entity offer tribal land services? (Y/N) No

&lt;910&gt; Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

&lt;920&gt; Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes, No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached PDF, on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Select Yes or No or Not Applicable

**(1000) Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability  
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

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<1000> Voice services rate comparability certification Yes

<1010> Attach detailed description for voice services rate comparability compliance

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Name of Attached Document

<1020> Broadband comparability certification Yes - Pricing is no more than the most recent applicable benchmark announced by the Wireline Competition Bureau

<1030> Attach detailed description for broadband comparability compliance

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Name of Attached Document

**(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting  
Data Collection Form**

 FCC Form 481  
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&lt;1100&gt; Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Y/N)

Yes

&lt;1130&gt; Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).



**(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers**  
**Lifeline**  
**Data Collection Form**

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3571561nelifeline1210.pdf

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- |        |   |                                     |
|--------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <1221> | Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1222> | Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan,  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1223> | Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan.  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**(2005) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation**

FCC Form 481

**Data Collection Form**

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

*Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers*

July 2013

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Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

**Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting**

- <2011> 3rd Year Certification 47 CFR §54.313(b)(1)(ii) - Note that for the July 2017 certification, this applies to Round 2 recipients of Incremental Support.
- <2022> Recipient certifies, representing year three after filing a notice of acceptance of funding pursuant to 54.312(c), that the locations in question are not receiving support under the Broadband Initiatives Program or the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program for projects that will provide broadband with speeds of at least 4 Mbps/1Mbps - 54.313(b)(2)(i). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2023> The attachment on line 2024 includes a statement of the total amount of capital funding expended in the previous year in meeting Connect America Phase I deployment obligations, accompanied by a list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent. This covers year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2024A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?
- <2024B> Attach list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent in year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.
- <2025A> Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?
- <2025B> Attach geocoded Information for Phase I milestone reports (Round 2 for year three) - Connect America Fund , WC Docket 10-90, Report and Order, FCC 13-73, paragraph 35 (May 22, 2013).
- <2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4)

Name of Attached Document Listing  
Required Information

Name of Attached Document Listing  
Required Information

**(2005) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation**

FCC Form 481

**Data Collection Form**

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

*Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers*

July 2013

**Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support {47 CFR § 54.313(d)}**

&lt;2016&gt; Certification support used to build broadband

**Connect America Phase II Reporting {47 CFR § 54.313(e)}**

&lt;2017A&gt; Connect America Fund Phase II recipient?

&lt;2017C&gt; Total amount of Phase II support, if any, the price cap carrier used for capital expenditures in 2016.

&lt;2018&gt; Attach the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the carrier newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(A)

Name of Attached Document Listing  
Required Information

&lt;2019&gt; Recipient certifies that it bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings seeking broadband service that meets the connectivity targets for the schools and libraries universal service support program for eligible schools and libraries located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving Phase II model-based support, and that such bids were at rates reasonably comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for comparable offerings - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(C)

**(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation**  
**Data Collection Form**

 FCC Form 481  
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Select from the drop down menu or check the boxes below to note compliance with 54.313(f)(1). Privately held carriers must ensure compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

(3009)	Progress Report on 5 Year Plan Carrier certifies to 54.313(f)(1)(iii)		
Yes - Attach Certification			
(3010A)	Certification of Public Interest Obligations {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)}	371561nePublicInterest3010B.pdf	
(3010B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
(3012A)	Community Anchor Institutions {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii)}	No - No New Community Anchors	
(3012B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
(3013)	Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)}	(Yes/No)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
(3014)	If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report	(Yes/No)	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires:			
(3015)	Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3016)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3017)	If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
(3018)	If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited?	(Yes/No)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:			
(3019)	Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3020)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3021)	Management letter and/or audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:			
(3022)	Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3023)	Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3024)	Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3025)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3026)	Attach the worksheet listing required information	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	371561ne3026.pdf

# REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

## (3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

FCC Form 481

### Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

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### Financial Data Summary

(3027) Revenue

(3028) Operating Expenses

(3029) Net Income

(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)

(3031) Total Assets

(3032) Total Debt

(3033) Total Equity

(3034) Dividends

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4005 Rural Broadband Experiment

Authorized Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE) recipients must address the certification for public interest obligations, provide a list of newly served community anchor institutions, and provide a list of locations where broadband has been deployed.

Public Interest Obligations – FCC 14-98 (paragraphs 26-29, 78)

Please address Line 4001 regarding compliance with the Commission’s public interest obligations. All RBE participants must provide a response to Line 4001.

4001. Recipient certifies that it is offering broadband to the identified locations meeting the requisite public interest obligations consistent with the category for which they were selected, including broadband speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for comparable offerings in urban areas?

Community Anchor Institutions – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 79)

4003a. RBE participants must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which they newly deployed broadband service in the preceding calendar year. On this line, please respond (yes – attach new community anchors, no – no new anchors) to indicate whether this list will be provided.

If yes to 4003A, please provide a response for 4003B.

4003b. Provide the number, names and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the recipient newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
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Broadband Deployment Locations – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 80)

4004a. Attach a list of geocoded locations to which broadband has been deployed as of the June 1st immediately preceding the July 1st filing deadline for the FCC Form 481.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
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4004b. Attach evidence demonstrating that the recipient is meeting the relevant public service obligations for the identified locations. Materials must at least detail the pricing, offered broadband speed and data usage allowances available in the relevant geographic area.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
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**Certification - Reporting Carrier  
Data Collection Form**

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**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:**

Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

<b>Certification - Agent / Carrier</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:**

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) <u>Consortia Consulting</u> is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent:	Consortia Consulting
Name of Reporting Carrier:	HERSHEY COOP TEL CO
Signature of Authorized Officer:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/23/2017
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	Rex Woolley
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	GM / CEO
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	3083685561 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	371561 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/03/2017
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:**

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	HERSHEY COOP TEL CO
Name of Authorized Agent Firm:	Consortia Consulting
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/23/2017
Name of Authorized Agent Employee:	Judy Christiansen
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent	Consultant
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	4028181322 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	371561 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/03/2017
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	



## Attachments

<b>(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<701>	Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date	1/1/2017
<702>	Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge	17.5

<703>

[illegible]

<b>(710) Broadband Price Offerings</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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[illegible]

## **Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company**

### **Certification of Compliance with Applicable Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules for Voice and Broadband Services**

Service quality standards and consumer protection rules for broadband are not as defined as the rules for voice services. The Company complies with any service quality standards and consumer protection rules for broadband that are out there now and any that will be defined in the future.

#### Service Quality Standards

For voice services, the Company:

- Provides voice grade access to the public switched network.
- Provides flat rated local exchange service with no additional charge to end users.
- Provides access to the emergency services provided by local government or other public safety organizations, such as 911 and enhanced 911.
- Provides toll blocking and toll limitation services.

For voice and broadband services, the Company:

- Advertises the availability of its services and the charges using media of general distribution and/or on its website.
- Maintains a business office providing customers with access to a customer service representative either in person or via a local telephone call or toll-free telephone number during business hours.
- Directs after hour calls to the Company's help desk.
- Directs trouble reports to the on-call technician.
- Tracks all service orders to ensure they are completed in a timely manner.
- Measures its service connection and service interruption performance on a regular basis.
- Trains employees to:
  - Answer all incoming calls promptly.
  - Respond to all inquiries for information promptly and courteously.
  - Investigate thoroughly all customer complaints and handle appropriately according to the Company's guidelines for resolution of customer complaints.
  - Be knowledgeable about products and service offerings so they can assist the customer with selecting the best service option.
- Has a process for periodic inspection, testing and preventive maintenance of its equipment to permit the rendering of safe, adequate and continuous service at all times.
- Meets or exceeds the standards established by the state commission and provides any reports required in accordance with the state commission's rules.

#### Consumer Protection Rules

The Company has established operating procedures designed to facilitate compliance with applicable consumer protection rules which include compliance with the Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) rules. The operating procedures include:

- Appointment of a compliance officer.
- A manual detailing the specific procedures for protecting consumer information.
- Employee training on an annual basis.
- A disciplinary process for improper use of consumer information.

If complaints are filed with the Company regarding consumer protection rules, the complaint is immediately investigated, the matter tracked and any corrective action noted. This process ensures that problems are addressed and corrections made.

## **Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company**

### **Functionality in Emergency Situations for Voice and Broadband Services**

#### **Back-Up Power**

The Hershey central office has battery backup sufficient to power the office for approximately 8 hours. The office is also has a fixed, natural gas powered stand by generator equipped with an automatic start and transfer switch. All electronic network transmission equipment located outside of the central office has battery backup. These battery backup systems are capable of providing power for a minimum period of 8 hours. The company also has numerous portable generators that can be deployed to the remote locations in the event of prolonged power outages. The broadband network also has battery backup and is powered by the above mentioned generator systems during power failures.

#### **Rerouting of Traffic around Damaged Facilities**

Hershey has full redundancy built into the electronic transmission equipment that carries interexchange carrier traffic to the tandem. Hershey connects to CenturyLink for the purpose of interexchange traffic to the tandem. CenturyLink does not provide a redundant cable route for the last mile connection to our exchange. Hershey has all needed splicing supplies and a fiber optic splicer on hand so that damage to facilities can be dealt with swiftly. Hershey does maintain redundant fiber facilities to handle broadband data traffic within our exchange. Broadband traffic as well as voice traffic uses the same local loop to the subscriber's premise

#### **Traffic Spikes**

Hershey Telephone owns a MetaSwitch VP2510 soft switch. The switching fabric is capable of handling 250,000 BHCA (Busy Hour Call Attempts). Our current BHCA is about 2800. Hershey currently supplies dial tone to less than 600 access lines. The MetaSwitch is equipped with peg counters that monitor the amount of traffic on the switch, these peg counters are monitored regularly. The company has more than adequate circuit capacity to handle incoming, outgoing, and emergency interexchange traffic. The company has traffic graphing software to monitor broadband usage. The graphs are monitored closely and additional capacity is added as needed. The average peak time usage for the current broadband connections is 42% utilization.

## **Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company**

### **Lifeline Terms and Conditions**

The Nebraska Telephone Assistance Program (NTAP) offers Lifeline program-supported service to qualified low-income residential consumers. The federal Lifeline and The Nebraska Telephone Assistance Program (NTAP) assistance reduces the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service by \$3.50. The federal Lifeline program reduces costs of telephone or broadband internet access service (BIAS) by \$9.25. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$12.75 per month in discounts. In addition, the Federal Universal Service Charge is not assessed to consumers participating in the programs. Toll Blocking prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost. In addition, by choosing this option, consumers are usually not charged a deposit.

The Nebraska Public Service Commission administers NTAP and the federal Lifeline program.

### **NTAP Eligibility Information**

#### **Program Based Eligibility**

To qualify for services, subscribers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents, or the subscriber's household must receive benefits from one of the following assistance programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Medicaid
- Children's Health Insurance Program/Kids Connection (SAM, MAC or EMAC)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); (formerly the Food Stamps Program)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veteran's Pension and Survivor Benefit

To receive an application, contact your local *Health and Human Services* agency caseworker or the *Nebraska Public Service Commission*, 1200 N Street, Suite 300, PO Box 94927, Lincoln, NE 68508-4927, Phone: 402-471-3101, Toll Free: 1-800-526-0017 or [http://www.psc.nebraska.gov/ntips/ntips\\_ntap.html](http://www.psc.nebraska.gov/ntips/ntips_ntap.html)

Applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means.

Acceptable documentation of program-based eligibility includes: current or prior year's statement of benefits from a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program; notice letter of participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program; program participation documents; or another official document evidencing the consumer's participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program.

**Income Based Eligibility**

In addition, consumers are eligible if their household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines – 135%

Household Size	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$16,281	\$20,331	\$18,711
2	\$21,924	\$27,392	\$25,205
3	\$27,567	\$34,452	\$31,698
4	\$32,853	\$41,513	\$38,192
5	\$34,496	\$48,573	\$44,685
6	\$44,496	\$55,634	\$51,179
7	\$50,139	\$62,694	\$57,672
8	\$55,782	\$69,755	\$64,166
For each additional person, add	\$5,643	\$7,061	\$6,494

Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes: prior year's state, federal or Tribal tax return; current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub; social security statement of benefits; Veterans Administration statement of benefits; retirement/pension statement of benefits; unemployment/workmen's compensation statement of benefits; federal or Tribal notice of letter participating in General Assistance; or a divorce decree or child support award or other official document containing income information.

**Tribal Eligibility**

A subscriber who lives on Tribal lands and is an eligible resident of Tribal lands is eligible for Tribal Lifeline service or Tribal Link Up if the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents, or the subscriber's household participates in any of the above-listed qualifying assistance programs or one of the following Tribal-specific federal assistance programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance; Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met); or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Tribal subscribers may also qualify if the household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Tribal subscribers should contact Hershey for additional information on Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up.

**Program Service**

Hershey's Voice NTAP and federal Lifeline Program services include unlimited local minutes-of-use within the toll-free calling area. Hershey's Voice NTAP and federal Lifeline Program does not include any free minutes-of-use for toll. Toll is billed at the standard toll rate depending on which interexchange carrier the consumer subscribes to for toll service. As part of the service, Toll blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost.

BIAS minimum speed and usage allowance standards are required for the service to qualify.

Lifeline recipients may transfer the Lifeline benefit to a new company once every sixty days for telephone service and once every 12 months for BIAS.

### **Rates**

Subscribers may receive the NTAP and federal Lifeline Program credit on any type or grade of local service, including bundled services that are normally offered by Hershey's. The federal Lifeline program credit is also available on BIAS. Advertised rates do not include any applicable taxes or surcharges.

### **Recertification of NTAP Eligibility**

Service recipients are required to recertify their eligibility annually. Failure to properly recertify a recipient's continued eligibility for service will result in termination of the service recipient's monthly service discount and de-enrollment from service.

### **Additional NTAP Program Information**

NTAP and the federal Lifeline program are limited to one benefit per household. A household is defined as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. NTAP and the federal Lifeline Program are government benefit programs, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.



## **Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company**

### **Certification of Public Interest Obligations**

To be in compliance with the Certification of Public Interest Obligations of providing upon a reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream:

- Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company certifies that it has taken reasonable steps to provide upon a reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol.
- The Company provides usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas.
- The Company certifies that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time.

**REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

**REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

**HERSHEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY  
AND WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY**

HERSHEY, NEBRASKA

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**CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015

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**ERICKSON & BROOKS**

Certified Public Accountants

FREMONT, NEBRASKA

**REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

HERSHEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY  
HERSHEY, NEBRASKA  
DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015

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**REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

*Ericksen & Brooks*

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

STEVEN E. PRIBNOW  
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Board of Directors  
Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company  
Hershey, Nebraska

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company (a Nebraska corporation) and subsidiary, which comprise the consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, and the related consolidated statements of income, changes in members' equity, and cash flows for the years then ended and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements.

**Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company and subsidiary as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

ERICKSON & BROOKS

*Ericksen & Brooks*

Fremont, Nebraska  
February 27, 2017

**REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**  
HERSHEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY  
HERSHEY, NEBRASKA  
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS  
DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015

ASSETS

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Current assets:		
Cash	\$	\$
Temporary investments (Note 2)		
Accounts receivable, net		
Interest and dividends receivable		
Materials and supplies		
Prepaid expenses (Note 7)		
Prepaid income taxes		
	—	—
Noncurrent assets:		
Investments:		
Long-term cash investments		
Nonregulated equipment - net (Note 4)		
Other noncurrent assets		
Intangible assets (Note 8)		
	—	—
Property, plant and equipment: (Note 3)		
Telecommunications plant in service		
Accumulated provision for depreciation		
	—	—
	\$	\$

LIABILITIES AND EQUITIES

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$	\$
Customer deposits		
Advance billings and payments		
Income taxes payable		
Accrued expenses		
Patronage dividends payable		
	—	—
Other liabilities and deferred credits:		
Deferred income taxes (Note 5)		
	—	—
Members' equity:		
Membership certificates, \$50 per certificate		
Patronage capital assigned		
Retained earnings		
	—	—
	\$	\$

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

HERSHEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY

HERSHEY, NEBRASKA

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Operating revenues:		
Basic local network services	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]
Network access services	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Billing and collection services	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Miscellaneous	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Total operating revenues	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Operating expenses:		
Plant specific operations	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Plant nonspecific operations	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Depreciation and amortization	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Customer operations	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Corporate operations	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Other taxes	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Operating income	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Other income (expense):		
Interest and dividend income	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Gain on sale of assets (Note 8)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Lease income (Note 8)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Miscellaneous income (expense)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Nonregulated income (Note 4)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Income before income taxes	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Income taxes (Note 5)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Net income	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**  
HERSHEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY  
HERSHEY, NEBRASKA  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS' EQUITY  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015

	<u>Membership Certificates</u>	<u>Patronage Capital Assigned</u>	<u>Retained Earnings</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance December 31, 2014	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]
Net income	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Decrease in memberships	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Dividends	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Balance December 31, 2015	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Net income	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Increase in memberships	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Dividends	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Balance December 31, 2016	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



**REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**  
HERSHEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY  
HERSHEY, NEBRASKA  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Cash received from consumers	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Interest and dividends received	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Income taxes paid	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Net cash provided by operating activities	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Construction and acquisition of plant	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Proceeds from sale of plant	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Purchases of cash investments	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Proceeds from cash investments	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Net cash used by investing activities	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Dividends paid	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Increase (decrease) in:		
Patronage membership	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Customer deposits and advanced payments	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Net cash used by financing activities	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Net increase (decrease) in cash	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Cash – beginning of year	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Cash – end of year	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

HERSHEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY

HERSHEY, NEBRASKA

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015

(continued)

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Net income	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Gain on sale of assets	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Reinvested investment income	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Patronage dividends	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Deferred income taxes	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
(Increase) decrease in:		
Accounts receivable	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Interest and dividends receivable	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Prepaid expenses	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Prepaid income taxes	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Increase (decrease) in:		
Accounts payable	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Accrued expenses	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Income taxes payable	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**  
HERSHEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY  
HERSHEY, NEBRASKA  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015

Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Nature of Operations

Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company and subsidiary provide telephone, cable television, internet and satellite internet services to subscribers in Hershey, Nebraska, and surrounding areas. Approximate operating revenues by activity are as follows: telephone service [REDACTED]

Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Access Direct Communications LLC. All material intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

System of Accounts

The accounting policies of the Company conform to generally accepted accounting principles and reflect practices appropriate to the telephone industry. The accounting records of the Company are maintained in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts for Class A and B Telephone Utilities as prescribed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Use of Estimates

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and Temporary Cash Investments

Cash consists primarily of checking and money market accounts, which may be liquidated in a period of less than 90 days. Certificates of deposits and other securities with original maturities over 90 days are classified as temporary cash investments. Certificates of deposits with maturities exceeding one year from the balance sheet date are classified as long-term. Cash and temporary cash investments are stated at cost, which approximates market value.

Telecommunications Accounts Receivable

Doubtful accounts are written off as deemed uncollectible. It is management's opinion that all accounts represented on the balance sheet at December 31, 2016 and 2015 are collectible. The Company grants credit to residents, substantially all of whom are local residents.

The Company's policy is to charge a [REDACTED] service fee in lieu of finance charges on accounts not paid in 15 days. The Company terminates service on accounts over 30 days past due and considers accounts over 60 days past due as delinquent, which are then turned over for collection. Accounts that were more than 90 days past due were immaterial at December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

Materials and Supplies

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market. Cost is determined principally by the average cost method. Inventories consist mainly of materials and supplies used for telephone plant construction, maintenance, and repairs.

HERSHEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY

HERSHEY, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015

(continued)

Property and Equipment

Telephone plant is capitalized at original cost, including the capitalized cost of salaries and wages, materials, certain payroll taxes and employee benefits.

Renewals and betterments of units of property are charged to telephone plant in service. When telephone plant is retired, its cost is removed from the asset account and charged against accumulated depreciation, together with removal costs less any salvage realized. No gains or losses are recognized in connection with routine retirements of depreciable telephone property. Substantial early retirements of assets are charged to deferred charges and amortized in accordance with the rules of the Nebraska Public Service Commission. Repairs and renewals of minor items are expensed as incurred.

Depreciation

The Company provides for depreciation for financial reporting purposes on the straight-line method by the application of rates based on the estimated service lives of the various classes of depreciable property, as approved by the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

The Company adheres to the Property, Plant and Equipment Topic of the FASB ASC to account for the impairment of long-lived assets. This statement requires, among other things, that entities identify events or changes in circumstances that indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. This statement had no effect on the financial statements of the Company since no assets were considered to be impaired for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015.

Patronage Capital

The Company is a cooperative of which subscribers are members. Each subscriber becomes a member and receives a membership certificate which will allow the subscriber to vote at the annual meeting.

Revenue Recognition

Toll, access, local service and miscellaneous revenues are recognized when earned regardless of the period in which they are billed.

Network access revenue related to interlata and intralata toll service is received under a system of access charges. Access charges represent a methodology by which local telephone companies, including the Company, charge the long distance carrier for access and interconnection to local facilities. The Company follows an access tariff filed with the Nebraska Public Service Commission for intrastate charges and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for interstate charges.

When network access service revenues have been received pursuant to the settlement and access agreements above, they are divided into traffic sensitive, nontraffic sensitive and billing and collecting portions. The revenues are then either placed into a common pooling arrangement with other exchange carriers for redistribution or kept by the Company. The redistributions are made according to formulas established by the governing boards of the pools and are generally based upon expenses incurred and investment maintained. The Company participates in pooling arrangements with the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA).

Interstate settlement, access, and pool distribution revenues are recorded when the amounts become determinable. Related expenses are recorded when incurred. Subsequent true-ups and retroactive adjustments, which are generally allowed for a period of 24 months after the close of the related calendar year, are recorded in the year in which such adjustments become determinable. Retroactive interstate adjustments [REDACTED] net income by [REDACTED] in 2016 and [REDACTED] net income by [REDACTED] in 2015.

**REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**  
HERSHEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY  
HERSHEY, NEBRASKA  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015  
(continued)

Intrastate access revenues are based on a filed tariff with the Nebraska Public Service Commission and are not subject to change unless a new tariff is filed.

In addition to recoveries from NECA, the Company also receives revenue from the Universal Service High Cost Loop Fund administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). The amount of support received from USAC is based on the number of customers served and the cost of providing services in that area being in excess of the national average, as determined by the FCC. The Company received [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] respectively, for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015.

The ability of NECA and USAC to provide these revenues to organizations similar to the Company is contingent upon regulatory and legislative rules which provide for the continuance of rate of return regulation and universal service support as currently enacted. Any regulatory or legislative changes that reduce the rate of return or universal support mechanism and the amount of revenues may have a material impact on the Company.

Income Taxes

In accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board's Accounting Standard's Codification (ASC) No. 740, the Company is required to inventory, evaluate, and measure all uncertain tax positions taken or to be taken on tax returns, and to record liabilities for the amount of such positions that may not be sustained, or may only partially be sustained, upon examination by relevant taxing authorities. The Company's income tax returns are subject to examination by taxing authorities for periods after December 31, 2013. It is managements' opinion that there are no significant unsustainable tax positions taken by the Company for the periods subject to examination.

Sales Tax

The Company excludes from its sales all sales taxes assessed to its customers. Sales taxes assessed are recorded as accrued liabilities on the balance sheet until remitted to the state agencies.

Advertising Costs

The Company follows the policy of charging the costs of advertising to expense as incurred. No advertising was incurred for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015.

Note 2 – Temporary Investments

Temporary investments consist of certificates of deposits maturing within one year and investment in a Repurchase and Sale Agreement account with a local bank, stated at cost which approximates market value, and is currently yielding [REDACTED]. This investment is not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation but is collateralized by a US Treasury Note [REDACTED] September 30, 2022.

**REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**  
HERSHEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY  
HERSHEY, NEBRASKA  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015  
(continued)

Note 3 – Investment in Property, Plant and Equipment

Telephone plant in service and under construction is stated at cost. Listed below are the major classes of telephone plant, composite depreciation rates and the associated depreciation reserves as of December 31, 2016 and 2015.

	<u>Rates</u>	<u>2016</u>		<u>2015</u>	
		<u>Plant</u>	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>Plant</u>	<u>Reserve</u>
Land		\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]
Motor vehicles and other work equipment	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Buildings	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Furniture	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Office support equipment	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Company communications equipment	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Central office equipment	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Customer premises wiring	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Buried plant	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Organization	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
		<u>\$ [REDACTED]</u>	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	<u>[REDACTED]</u>

The Company provides for depreciation on a straight-line basis at annual rates which will amortize the depreciable property over its estimated useful life. Such provision as a percentage of the average balance of telephone plant in service was [REDACTED] percent in 2016 and [REDACTED] percent in 2015.

Note 4 – Nonregulated Equipment

Nonregulated property consists of:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Customer premise equipment	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]
Public telephone equipment	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Cable television equipment	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Distance learning equipment	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Internet equipment	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	<u>[REDACTED]</u>
Less accumulated depreciation	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	<u>[REDACTED]</u>
Inventory for resale	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	<u>\$ [REDACTED]</u>	<u>\$ [REDACTED]</u>

Nonregulated equipment is stated at cost. The Company provides for depreciation for nonregulated equipment on a straight-line basis at annual rates which will amortize the depreciable property over its estimated useful life.

**REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**  
HERSHEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY  
HERSHEY, NEBRASKA  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015  
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Following is a summary of net income (loss) from nonregulated activities for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015:

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>2016</u> <u>Net</u>	<u>2015</u> <u>Net</u>
Customer premise leasing	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]
Cable television service	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Internet service	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	<u>\$ [REDACTED]</u>	<u>\$ [REDACTED]</u>	<u>\$ [REDACTED]</u>	<u>\$ [REDACTED]</u>	<u>\$ [REDACTED]</u>

Note 5 – Income Taxes

The Company files under Section 501(c)12 of the Internal Revenue Code as a nonexempt cooperative, permitting the cooperative to exclude from taxable income, income generated from providing communication services to patrons. However, income from nonmember sources exceeded percentages of total income set by the Service thus requiring the Company to pay income tax on certain nonmember-sourced income.

The components of income tax expense for the years ended 2016 and 2015 are as follows:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Current income tax expense:		
Federal	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]
State	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	<u>[REDACTED]</u>
Deferred income tax expense (benefit):		
Federal	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
State	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	<u>[REDACTED]</u>	<u>[REDACTED]</u>
Total provision for income taxes	<u>\$ [REDACTED]</u>	<u>\$ [REDACTED]</u>
Net deferred tax liability consists of the following:		
Federal	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]
State	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	<u>\$ [REDACTED]</u>	<u>\$ [REDACTED]</u>

The deferred tax liability results from the difference between book and tax basis of depreciable property and the use of accelerated depreciation methods for tax purposes.

The expected income tax provision that would result from applying statutory tax rates to income before income taxes differs from current expense for the following reasons:

1. Temporary differences created by using different depreciation and accounting methods for financial reporting than used for income tax purposes.
2. Permanent differences for expenses and patronage income which are not deductible or taxable for income tax purposes. Non-taxable patronage income for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] respectively.

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(continued)

Note 6 – Concentration of Credit Risk

The Company maintains its cash balances at several financial institutions located in western Nebraska. At times, these balances may exceed the limits secured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. There were no deposits in excess of insured limits as of December 31, 2016.

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Plan

The Company participates in the Retirement & Security Program for Employees of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association and Its Member Systems (the Program). The Program is a defined benefit pension plan covering many of the full-time employees of NTCA, its affiliates, and its members that have adopted the Program. Pursuant to IRC sections 413(c)(4), the Plan is considered Multiple Employer (other) Master Plan. The Program is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended.

The Company makes contributions quarterly to the Program for all eligible employees. These contributions are calculated as a [REDACTED] contribution of each participant's compensation. The participant may voluntarily contribute [REDACTED] of compensation each year under this program.

Participants who retire at age 65 (the Program's normal retirement age), or age 55 (the Program's early retirement age), or at an age between those two, are entitled to a monthly annuity or lump-sum payment. There is no minimum service requirement to qualify for this benefit; the benefit payable generally is reduced by the Program's early commencement factors, if the participant retires before normal retirement age. However, the Company may pay an additional amount to provide employees an unreduced benefit as early as age 55. If a participant's age is at least 55, and age and service years added together equal at least 85 at retirement, the participant can receive an unreduced benefit when retiring before age 65. This benefit provision is called the "Rule-of-85."

The Company has fewer than [REDACTED] participants and therefore, does not pay annual contributions that represent more than [REDACTED] of the total annual contributions to the Program.

The Program does not have a certified zone status as currently defined by the Pension Protection Act of 2006 ("PPA") because the Program is considered a multiple employer plan pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code and ERISA, as noted above.

The Program meets ERISA minimum funding requirements. The Funding Target Attainment Percentage valued as of January 1, 2015 is [REDACTED] without MAP-21 interest rates and [REDACTED] with MAP-21 interest rates. The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP-21), passed in 2012, provides for interest rate stabilization and changed how defined benefit plans calculate liabilities. Prior to MAP-21, pension plans determined their liabilities using a two-year average of interest rates. Now pension plans also take into account a 25-year average of interest rates. This means that MAP-21 interest rates will likely be higher and plan liabilities lower than they were under prior law. The Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act (CSEC Act) passed in 2014 permanently exempts the Program from PPA minimum funding and benefit restriction rules.

The Company may be subject to a withdrawal liability if the Company ceases participation in the Program.

The assets and liabilities of the Plan are commingled resulting in the Program being considered a multiemployer plan under ASC 715-80. The Company is required to recognize as the Net Pension Cost, the "required contributions" for the Program. "Required contributions" include annual contributions as indicated in the member's adoption agreement, plus retro costs payable, if any, for the period under audit.



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HERSHEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY

HERSHEY, NEBRASKA

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015

(continued)

<u>Pension</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>EIN/Pension Plan</u> <u>Number</u>	<u>Pension</u> <u>Protection Act</u> <u>Zone Status</u>		<u>FIP/RP Status</u>	<u>Contributions by</u> <u>Hershey Cooperative</u> <u>Telephone Co.</u>		<u>Surcharge</u>
		<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Pending</u> <u>Implemented</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Imposed</u> <u>Yes</u>
		N/A	N/A	N/A	\$	\$	

- (a) Plan information for the [REDACTED] is not publicly available. Based on the latest data available, the Program's plan assets were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for the plan years beginning January 1, 2015 and 2014, respectively. As of the January 1, 2015 valuation, the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits was [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for the plan years beginning January 1, 2015 and 2014, respectively; assuming the rate of return is [REDACTED] for those years. The [REDACTED] actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits is the sum of the following:

- Present value of accrued benefits on January 1, 2014 of [REDACTED] and
- Net increase during 2014 of [REDACTED]

Effective January 1, 2017, the Company approved an addendum to its adoption agreement for participation in the [REDACTED] electing to fully prefund expected future surcharge contributions in the amount of [REDACTED]. This amount is included in prepaid expenses at December 31, 2016.

Note 8 – License Purchase Agreement

The Company entered into an agreement to sell the 700 MHz B Block license, pending FCC approval. Until the approval was obtained, the spectrum was leased to the buyer for annual payments of [REDACTED]. The sale was approved in 2016 and [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] was recognized.

Note 9 – Subsequent Events

The Company has evaluated all subsequent events through February 27, 2017, the date the consolidated financial statements were available to be issued. There were no events that required disclosure.

**REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

*Erickson & Brooks*

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON CONSOLIDATING INFORMATION

Board of Directors  
Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company  
Hershey, Nebraska

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company and subsidiary as of and for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, and our report thereon dated February 27, 2017, which expressed an unmodified opinion on those financial statements, appears on page one. Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the consolidated financial statements as a whole. The consolidating information in Schedules I, II, and III is presented for purposes of additional analysis of the consolidated financial statements rather than to present the financial position, results of operations, and cash flows of the individual companies, and it is not a required part of the consolidated financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the consolidated financial statements. The consolidating information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of consolidated financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the consolidated financial statements or to the consolidated financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the consolidating information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the consolidated financial statements as a whole.

ERICKSON & BROOKS

*Erickson & Brooks*

Fremont, Nebraska  
February 27, 2017

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HERSHEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY

HERSHEY, NEBRASKA

SCHEDULE I - CONSOLIDATING BALANCE SHEET

DECEMBER 31, 2016

	Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company			Total
	<u>ASSETS</u>			
Current assets:				
Cash	\$	\$	\$	\$
Temporary investments				
Accounts receivable, net				
Interest and dividends receivable				
Materials and supplies				
Prepaid expenses				
Prepaid income taxes				
Noncurrent assets:				
Investments:				
Inter-company receivables				
Investment in affiliates				
Long-term cash investments				
Nonregulated equipment - net				
Other noncurrent assets				
Property, plant and equipment:				
Telecommunications plant in service				
Accumulated provision for depreciation				
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<u>LIABILITIES AND EQUITIES</u>				
Current liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$	\$	\$	\$
Customer deposits				
Advance billings and payments				
Accrued expenses				
Patronage dividends payable				
Other liabilities and deferred credits:				
Liabilities and credits due affiliates				
Deferred income taxes				
Members' equity:				
Membership certificates per certificate				
Patronage capital assigned				
Retained earnings				
	\$	\$	\$	\$

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HERSHEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY

HERSHEY, NEBRASKA

SCHEDULE II - CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF INCOME, PATRONAGE AND OTHER EQUITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

	Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company			Total
Operating revenues:				
Basic local network services	\$	\$	\$	\$
Network access services				
Internet and ISP services				
Miscellaneous				
Operating expenses:				
Plant specific operations				
Plant nonspecific operations				
Depreciation and amortization				
Customer operations				
Corporate operations				
Other taxes				
Operating income				
Other income (expense):				
Interest and dividend income				
Gain on sale of assets				
Miscellaneous income (expense)				
Nonregulated income				
Income from affiliates				
Income before income taxes				
Income taxes				
Net income				
Beginning balance:				
Patronage and other equities				
Retained earnings				
Less: Patronage distribution				
Ending balance	\$	\$		

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HERSHEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY  
HERSHEY, NEBRASKA  
SCHEDULE III - CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

	Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company			Total
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Cash received from consumers		\$		\$
Cash paid to suppliers and employees				
Interest and dividends received				
Income taxes paid				
Net cash provided by operating activities				
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Construction and acquisition of plant				
Proceeds from sale of plant				
Purchases of cash investments				
Proceeds from cash investments				
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities				
Cash flows from financing activities:				
Dividends paid				
Increase (decrease) in:				
Patronage membership				
Transfers with affiliate				
Customer deposits and advanced payments				
Net cash provided (used) by financing activities				
Net decrease in cash				
Cash – beginning of year				
Cash – end of year		\$		\$

**REDACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**  
HERSHEY COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY AND SUBSIDIARY  
HERSHEY, NEBRASKA  
SCHEDULE III - CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016  
(continued)

	Hershey Cooperative Telephone Company			<u>Total</u>
Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:				
Net income	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:				
Income from affiliates	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Depreciation	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Gain on sale of assets	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Reinvested investment income	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Patronage dividends	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Deferred income taxes	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
(Increase) decrease in:				
Accounts receivable	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Interest and dividends receivable	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Prepaid expenses	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Prepaid income taxes	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Increase (decrease) in:				
Accounts payable	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Accrued expenses	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]